



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
Thursday, March 28, 2019 at 3:00 p.m.

By
Dr. Lori Ideta
Vice Chancellor for Students
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 1418 SD1 HD1 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and members of the committee:

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa supports the intent of SB 1418 SD1 HD1, which would provide resources for the system wide Pamantasan Council to promote access and diversity. The word "Pamantasan" is a Filipino word meaning "higher education". The Pamantasan Council, established in 1987, is open to all students, administrators, faculty and staff from the various UH campuses.

The Pamantasan Council addresses issues of representation, curriculum and research, partnerships with public schools, universities in the Philippines and other states, workforce development and community services. The Council holds annual and periodic workshops to identify priority issues and needs consistent with the University's commitment to access and diversity.

The Pamantasan Council needs resources to implement (a) recommendations of the 2008 SCR 120 report to the Legislature regarding Philippine language courses, teacher training and certification; and (b) Pamantasan conference recommendations such as developing courses for articulation between community colleges and 4-year campuses. With additional funding and positions, UH and the Pamantasan Council can provide necessary expertise and energy to increase the University's national leadership in Philippine Studies (UH Mānoa and Leeward CC are leaders in offering academic programs). In addition the appropriated funds will be used to support on-going recruitment and retention efforts (federal programs such as GEAR UP at Waipahu high school) to increase the number and success of Filipinos at each campus, including undergraduate and graduate degree programs, faculty, staff and administrators. Also, the funds will expand the curricular content on Philippine language, Philippine Studies and Filipino American Hawai'i ethnic studies, which at this time are very limited or not available at the various campuses.

SB 1418 SD1 HD1 includes information on recent census, UH and DOE data on Filipinos (second largest group in the state and the department of education) and their under-representation among college graduates, and current UH students, staff and faculty.

The University thanks the Legislature for introducing this bill and for its continuing support for access and diversity.

The University supports the intent of SB 1418 SD1 HD1 provided that its passage is an addition to the priorities as indicated in our University of Hawai'i Board of Regents Approved Budget.

SB-1418-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/27/2019 1:55:31 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2019 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marie Guillermo	College of Education at UHM & FilGrad UHM	Support	No

Comments:

Please see attachment.

Thank you,
Marie Guillermo

DATE: March 27, 2019

TO: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty Cullen, Vice Chair

FROM: Christine Quemuel, University of Hawai'i Pamantasan Council
(808) 221-7287

RE: Supporting SB 1418 SD1 HD1, Relating to the University of Hawai'i
Thursday March 28, 2019 3:00 pm

On behalf of the University of Hawai'i Pamantasan Council, I respectfully submit testimony for the House Committee on Finance hearing on Thursday, March 28, 2019 in strong support of SB 1418 SD1 HD1 relating to the University of Hawai'i, to provide resources for the Systemwide Pamantasan Council to promote access and diversity. Filipinos are now the second largest population group in Hawai'i and the largest immigrant group in the state, however they continue to be underrepresented in higher education.

The Pamantasan Executive Council is the UH systemwide organization concerned with the status of Filipinos on all UH campuses throughout the state. The Council was established in 1987 to address the representation and success of Filipinos on campus and to ensure that Filipino American and Philippine courses are represented in the curriculum. The Executive Council is also charged with issues concerning Filipinos in the Department of Education, Filipinos in the work force, and international relations between colleges and universities in Hawai'i and the Philippines. The Pamantasan Council has no budget, and is a volunteer organization comprised of UH students, staff, faculty, and administrators who are committed to access and diversity issues.

Funding for Pamantasan positions and projects will insure that the state champions educational equity and diversity in higher education. We thank the legislature for introducing this important bill and for their continued commitment to diversity to ensure that underrepresented communities in Hawai'i are supported. This testimony does not represent the official testimony of the University of Hawai'i system, but reflects the support of the Pamantasan Council. We strongly encourage the passage of this bill. Please support SB 1418 SD1 HD1, relating to the University of Hawai'i and Pamantasan.

March 27, 2019

Testimony to the Committee on Finance

Re: SB 1418, SD1, HD1 UH Pamantasan Council Appropriation

Chair Rep. Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, and members of the House Committee on Finance:

On behalf of the Pamantasan 2019 Conference Committee in Hawai‘i Island, we submit this testimony in strong support of SB 1418, a measure that would appropriate funds to the University of Hawai‘i for 4 full-time equivalent positions to promote access, diversity, and workforce development, including programs and policies related to Philippine courses and Filipino students.

In 1987, the University of Hawai‘i Task Force on Filipinos was organized to “review the status of Filipinos at the University of Hawai‘i and to make recommendations to increase their numbers and improve the academic success and careers of Filipinos and the quality of education for all students at the University.” The Task Force became known as the Pamantasan Council comprised of faculty, staff, students, and administrators from all 10 UH campuses. Together, Pamantasan advocates for the representation of Filipino American and Philippine curricula and support for higher education achievement among Filipino students. Pamantasan holds an annual conference hosted at one of the UH campuses every year.

While it has been more than 30 years since Pamantasan first convened, there still remains significant Filipino education gaps in the UH system. In Hawai‘i Island, for example, where Filipinos make up 22% (40,878) of the population, only 10% (246) Filipino students were enrolled at Hawai‘i Community College and only 7.5% (211) were enrolled at UH Hilo in the Fall 2017 semesters. Filipino transfer rates remain low in Hawai‘i Island, as well. In fact, last Fall 2017, only 7 Filipino students transferred from HawCC to UHH.

On Friday, October 18, 2019, Hawai‘i Community College will be hosting the Pamantasan 2019 conference in Hilo. The theme for the conference is *Sulong Sulong!: Activism and Advocacy!* In Filipino, *isulong* means to push forward or advance. And in that spirit, we fully support SB 1418 which addresses the disproportionate impacts of Filipino educational gaps in the UH system. As faculty, staff, and students representing the UH system in Hawai‘i Island, we believe that SB 1418 is a meaningful step in the right direction. We respectfully ask for your support for this important piece of legislation which would *isulong* or advance and the educational needs of our Filipino community in Hawai‘i.

Mabuhay!

Respectfully submitted by the Pamantasan 2019 Conference Committee in Hawai‘i Island:

Milli Macugay Asuncion, MAEd, Board Secretary, Sariling Gawa Youth Council
Lito M. Asuncion, M.A., Advisor, Sariling Gawa Youth Council

Jeanne Batallones, M.S., Transfer Counselor, Hawai'i Community College
Sandra K. Makuakane Claveria, MEd, Assistant Professor/Coordinator, Human Services Program, Hawaii Community College
Kurt D. Dela Cruz, Senior Adviser, UH Hilo Advising and Career Services
Ginger Hamilton, LSW, former Director, Minority Access & Achievement Program, UH Hilo
Kesha Kubo, Information Center Coordinator, Hawai'i Community College
Luzviminda Banez Miguel, DNP, MSN Ed., RN, Associate Professor Nursing Programs Coordinator, Hawai'i Community College
Craig Mitchell, MEd, Academic Advisor, Hawai'i Community College
Ronnell John Ray Pascua, President, Samahang Club of Hawai'i Community College
Christine Quintana, M.A., Coordinator of International Programs, Hawai'i Community College
Charlotte Faye E. Rosario, President, Bayanihan Club of UH Hilo
Rachel Solemsaas, Ed.D, Chancellor, Hawai'i Community College
Callie Villanueva, CTE Dean's Secretary, Hawai'i Community College
Melanie Dorado Wilson, Ed.D., Dean for Liberal Arts and Public Services, Hawai'i Community College

March 28, 2019 @ 3 pm
SB1418 sd1 hd1: Relating to the University of Hawai'i

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB1418 sd1 hd1 Relating to the
University of Hawai'i Pamantasan Council

SUBMITTED BY Amy Agbayani, co-chair

FILIPINA ADVOCACY NETWORK (FAN)

3432 B-1 Kalihi St. Honolulu, Hi 96819

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and members:

I worked at UH for over four decades and am now an emeritus assistant vice chancellor for student diversity. My professional career and my community advocacy work relates to access to higher education for underrepresented groups and support for diversity and civil rights in our state. Today I am representing the FILIPINA ADVOCACY NETWORK (FAN) a group that advocates for an inclusive community and support for programs and policies to improve the status of Filipinos in Hawai'i.

FAN supports SB1418 sd1 hd1 which provides funds and four positions for the UH Pamantasan Council, a council with representatives from each of the ten campuses. The Council continues to support and advocate for courses on Philippine languages, Philippine Studies, and the Filipino experience in Hawaii; initiatives to increase transfers from two year campuses to four year programs, to increase the number of bachelor's and professional degrees and support more faculty, staff and administrators at UH. Pamantasan Council supports a diverse and educated workforce for the state.

Although there has been progress in many areas, Filipinos (includes part Filipinos) are now the second largest ethnic group in the state (26%) and a significant percentage are low income. Only 17% of Filipinos have a BA or higher (compared to Native Hawaiians 14%, Caucasians 42% and Japanese Americans 35%). Filipinos are the second largest group in the department of education (22%) and continue to be underrepresented in many UH programs. Data shows Filipinos are better represented at Maui 22%, West'Oahu 21%, Honolulu 19%, Leeward 19%, Kauai 17%, and Kapiolani 15%. Filipino students at Hawai'i CC are 9%, Hilo 8% and Windward 5%. Filipinos are severely underrepresented at Manoa : undergraduates 10%, graduate students 4% (few are in medicine and Law), and faculty 3%.

Data shows Filipino undergraduates and graduate students outperform their non-Filipino peers in terms of degree attainment at the 4 year campuses and the community colleges. The priority issues identified by the Pamantasan Council include: low transfer rates from the CCs to 4 year campuses; low enrollment at the graduate level; few instructional faculty particularly at West O'ahu and Manoa; lack of Philippine language and related courses at most campuses.

Proposed program activities will be at ten campuses (e.g. student programming, student employment, systemwide conference). The requested four positions will be hired at the campus level and work cooperatively systemwide on 1) graduate student recruitment; 2) CC transfers to four year campuses and c) curriculum (e.g. distance education language classes, Academic Subject certificate in Philippine/Filipino studies) and co-curriculum projects (e.g. systemwide Pamantasan conference, exchange programs). With adequate staffing, the Council will be more effective in meeting the University's strategic direction to increase graduates (the Hawai'i Graduation Initiative), and to support the

state's workforce development goals and our aspiration for inclusion in our multiethnic state.


The Filipino students, their families and the community seek access to higher education. The very large population of Filipinos in the state and the public schools means that DOE and UH can meet their mission by providing programming to increase the Filipino UH graduates who can be part of our state's educated workforce and active citizens in our community. We respectfully request your support of sb1418 sd1 for the UH Pamantasan Council.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED BUDGET:

The total amount requested is four positions and \$390,000 (for positions and related current expenses for UH Pamantasan Council student services and curriculum. The proposed budget could be one budget ID for Pamantasan Council under system UOH 900 for \$390,000 (4.00) or two budget IDs: Pamantasan Community Colleges UOH 800 for \$195,000 (2.00) and Pamantasan Manoa UOH 100 for \$195,000 (2.00)

Date: March 27, 2019

To: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance

From: Sabrina Fallejo Uganiza 

Re: Testimony in Strong Support of SB 1418
Relating to the University of Hawai'i Pamantasan Council

I am a proud Filipina, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa current doctoral student, alumni, and currently work at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I write in strong support of SB 1418 which would appropriate funds to the University of Hawai'i Pamantasan Council for 4 full-time equivalent positions to promote access, diversity, and workforce development, including programs and policies related to Philippine courses and Filipino students.

Since 1987, Pamantasan has strived to enhance the Filipina/o experience in higher education by bringing together Filipina/o faculty, staff, and students. In a state where Filipinas/os comprise a majority of the immigrant population, Filipinas/os are heavily underrepresented in the University of Hawai'i system. Pamantasan not only creates a positive place for Filipina/o students, it also addresses issues of diversity, representation, attrition, and retention of Filipina/o students, faculty, and staff. The Filipina/o community in the University of Hawai'i system has been incredibly supportive of many efforts to empower our Filipina/o student leaders and increase our pipeline into higher education.

I hope through the passage of SB 1418 Filipina/o students, faculty, and staff can continue to thrive in higher education. I strongly support the intent of this bill to provide resources to the University of Hawai'i Pamantasan Council.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me via email at sfallejo@gmail.com.

Again, thank you very much for your time and consideration.

SB-1418-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/25/2019 8:52:09 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2019 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Danicole Ramos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB1418 because it will empower the next generation of Filipinos like me in Hawaii to contribute to our society. I was born and raised in Waialua and both my parents are from the Philippines. I understand the sacrifices they made to help me get my Bachelor's and Master's degree. Since Filipinos are a large and growing population of the state, we need to make sure that every Filipino has equal opportunity to succeed in this country. This bill would provide UH the resources needed to create higher education equity for Filipinos

Christopher D. Yanuaria
2500 Campus Road
Honolulu, HI 96822

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Thursday, March 28, 2019 3:00 PM

State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street, Conference Room 308

SB 1418, SD1, HD1: RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Appropriates funds to the University of Hawai'i Pamantasan Council for 4 full-time equivalent positions to promote access, diversity, and workforce development, including programs and policies related to Philippine courses and Filipino students. (SD1, HD1)

Aloha Committee on Committee on Finance:

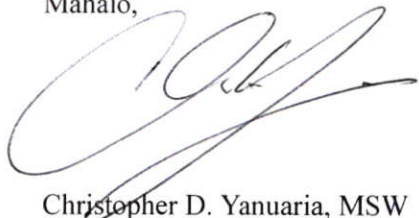
My name is Christopher D. Yanuaria, a proud Filipino alumni of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and currently the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's Prevention Awareness Understanding (PAU) Violence Program Coordinator. I am testifying in support of SB 1418, SD1, HD1.

I was born and raised in Kahului, Maui. Since I was young, my parents who were migrants from the Philippines emphasized the importance of education because they wanted to ensure a better life for me and my sister. I have watched both of my parents work long hours and juggle multiple jobs to allow me to have studied in college. I was unaware that I was an anomaly in my Filipino community because I had a college degree.

It was concerning for me to learn that in Hawai'i despite the high representation of Filipinos in the general population and schools within the department of education, students of Filipino ancestry were underrepresented in the University of Hawai'i system. The goal of the Pamantasan Council is to help promote access and diversity on the University level by addressing unique challenges faced by Filipino families in Hawai'i. The Pamantasan Council also helps to empower students by teaching and celebrating the rich Filipino culture and heritage, which have been found to improve Filipino enrollment and retention.

On a personal level, I have come to better understand my own ethnic heritage and come to appreciate the diversity Filipinos bring to Hawai'i thanks to the encouragement and support from my colleagues in Pamantasan. If it was not for my parents, family, and others like my colleagues, who supported my academic and professional endeavors, I do not think I would have gotten to where I am today. My hope is that other Filipinos can have the same opportunity as I did. For this reason, I urge you to please support SB 1418, SD1, HD1.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Yanuaria', with a large, sweeping initial 'C'.

Christopher D. Yanuaria, MSW

Program Coordinator University of Hawai'i at Mānoa PAU Violence Program

DATE: March 27, 2019

TO: COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Rep. Ty J. K. Cullen, Vice Chair

FROM: Roderick Labrador
(808) 349-6473

RE: Supporting SB 1418, SD1, HD1 Relating to the University of Hawai'i
Thursday, March 28, 2019 3:00 pm
Conference Room 308

I respectfully submit testimony for the Committee on Finance hearing on Thursday, March 28, 2019 in strong support of SB 1418, SD1, HD1 relating to the University of Hawai'i, to provide resources for the Systemwide Pamantasan Council to promote access and diversity. According to the latest census, Filipinos are now the second largest population group in Hawai'i and the biggest immigrant group in the state, however they continue to be underrepresented in higher education.

I am a professor in the Ethnic Studies Department at UH-Mānoa, specializing in Filipino diaspora studies. I teach several courses related to Filipino history, culture, and politics and over the past decade I have witnessed the tremendous impact the Pamantasan Council has had on student recruitment, engagement, retention, and success despite limited resources. Although the Pamantasan Council is a UH systemwide organization and was established in 1987, it has no budget and is a volunteer organization composed of UH students, staff, faculty, and administrators who are committed to access and diversity issues. The task of the council is extensive: addressing issues related to the representation and success of Filipinos on the UH campuses; making sure that courses the cover the Philippines, Filipinos in Hawai'i, Filipino Americans, and Filipinos in diaspora are available for students to take; facilitating international relations, partnerships, and collaborations between colleges and universities in Hawai'i and the Philippines; addressing K-12 issues related to Filipino students; and connecting educational concerns to issues related to careers and the work force. The wide-ranging Pamantasan Council merits our support. Funding for the Pamantasan Council, its various programs, events, and projects will insure that Hawai'i is at the forefront of educational equity and diversity in public higher education.

I thank the legislature for introducing this important bill and for your continued commitment to Filipinos and other underrepresented communities in Hawai'i. This testimony does not represent the official testimony of the University of Hawai'i system or the UH-Mānoa Department of Ethnic Studies, but reflects my own individual support and I strongly encourage the passage of this bill. Please support SB 1418, SD1, HD1 relating to the University of Hawai'i and Pamantasan.

Testimony in Strong Support of SB1418

Senate Committee on Finance
28 March 2019, 3:00 p.m.
Hawai'i State Capitol, Conference Rm. 308

To: Chair Sylvia Luke & Vice Chair Ty Cullen
Members of Senate Committee on Finance

From: Clement Bautista, Director
UHM Office of Multicultural Student Services

Subject: Relating to the University of Hawaii: Pamantasan Council

My name is Clement Bautista, and I am the director of the UHM Office of Multicultural Student Services but write to you as an individual who has spent three decades serving minority students in higher education. I strongly support this bill because I have seen, first-hand, the need for additional funds to support students in higher education for the following reasons:

- 1) The challenges facing all students to negotiate the journey to higher education is daunting. For schools with large populations of Filipino students, their UH college going rates support the contention that students from these schools face additional barriers and challenges not faced by students from other comparable schools. Part of this problem is due to a lack of quality information provided to the students and their families, and part is due to a lack of consistent support to all students. Increasing coordination between schools and university outreach units is the most cost-effective method to resolve some of these issues.
- 2) Filipino students face social environments that either demean or implicitly ignore Filipino culture and identity. We should not forget that a negative social environment in our schools has existed before for Kanaka Maoli, especially before the Hawaiian Renaissance movement of the 1960s and 1970s. The significant accomplishments of Kanaka Maoli students and intellectuals since that time is something that had to be fought for. A shift in the recognition and acceptance of Native Hawaiian culture and history was eventually possible because of institutional support

– financial and political – to recognize and promote Native Hawaiian culture and history.

Hawaii's social climate that still relegates Filipino culture and identity as second class needs to change. Supporting the university's Philippine culture, history and language programs at all campuses is essential to make this change.

- 3) The University of Hawaii is a very large institution that is tasked with planning, coordinating and fulfilling a multitude of tasks and activities that address many diverse and, often, financially competing interests. Services and support for a small, underrepresented segment of Hawaii's population often takes a back seat in prioritizing. Filipinos in Hawaii are no longer small and no longer a minority. Lest we forget, Hawaii residents of Philippine ancestry are our third largest and fastest increasing ethnic group. Alleviating discrepancies in their opportunities and promoting success in higher education must become a priority so all people, not just Filipinos will reap the benefits of a large and majority segment of Hawaii's population adding and contributing to the cultural, economic and social capital of our State.

Thank you for hearing this bill and the opportunity to offer my support.

Sincerely,

Clement Bautista
744 Elepaio Street
Honolulu, HI 96816
clement.bautista@gmail.com

RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
Hearing Date: March 27, 2019, Conference Room 308

Supporting Testimony for SB1418
Committee on Finance

To Honorable Chair Representative Luke, Vice Chair Rep. Cullen and Members of the Committee,

I am a faculty specialist in student affairs at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I am a proud Filipina and an alumni of the institution. I am grateful to be involved with Pamantasan and am writing in strong support of SB1418, which would provide resources for the system-wide Pamantasan Council.

Pamantasan has played an integral part in connecting Filipino faculty, staff and students to address issues of representation for Filipinos across the spectrum of higher education. Filipinos are the second largest ethnic group in the state of Hawai'i, yet the number of Filipino students enrolled, as well as faculty and staff employed within the UH System are gravely underrepresented. Retention of our Filipino students has also been an ongoing concern. This bill would support the Pamantasan Council in helping to address these issues and ultimately working towards to success of our Filipino students.

As an alumni, I greatly benefited from Filipino language programs and Filipino student groups, all of whom Pamantasan supports. In fact, as a transfer student from the continent, my participation in these programs helped me to gain a sense of belonging on campus and increased my self-esteem to become a more engaged student. When I became a new staff at the University seven years ago, the Pamantasan conference was one of the first projects I was encouraged to be a part of. I was grateful for the opportunity to connect and build relationships with other Filipino professionals. This has also encouraged me to be passionate about mentoring Filipino students. It is encouraging to know that Filipino faculty, staff and students have a platform to express their unique needs and to network with others they can identify and relate to.

Funding for Pamantasan would help ensure the continued success of our students in higher education and to support our diversity resources in higher education. I am in support of this bill to assist the Pamantasan Council.

Jennifer Pagala Barnett

March, 27 2019

SB 1418 Relating to the University of Hawai'i Pamantasan Council

Testimony in Support of SB 1418

Submitted by: Noemi A. Caacbay
2571 Dole St.
Honolulu, HI 96822

To Honorable Chair Representative Luke, Vice Chair Rep. Cullen, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Noemi A. Caacbay and I am a Filipina, and first-generation college senior attending the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. I am testifying in strong support of SB 1418.

I was born and raised on the island of Saipan to two immigrant parents. I am the first in my immediate family to attend college and will soon graduate. My parents have always emphasized the value of education and their support continues to encourage me through college. Upon coming to Hawai'i I realized there is an extremely large amount of Filipinos. With this large population I was caught aback when I learned there was a lack of representation in faculty, staff and insufficient tools and resources available for students of Filipino ancestry to succeed on a college level.

The word "Pamantasan" is a Filipino word meaning "higher education". SB 1418 hopes to promote access to diversity on the University level by addressing unique challenges faced by students of Filipino ancestry, their families, by providing resources. Many Filipino students who are first-generation college students like myself and lack role models, and university support services to help navigate through their college career. Pamantasan Council will strengthen pathways to college and workforce development for Filipinos. It will cultivate knowledge and help with the understanding of Filipino culture, history and more. Since Filipinos are one of the largest ethnic groups in Hawai'i, it is critical that attention is given to the challenges our population faces.

My hope is that through Pamantasan Council, more first-generation college students will rise up and be given opportunities as I did. I respectfully request your support of SB 1418 for the University of Hawai'i at Manoa Pamantasan Council.

SB-1418-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/27/2019 12:30:47 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2019 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rouel Velasco	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Welina Mai Ke Aloha! Kumustakayo amin! (Greetings everyone!)

My name is Rouel Garingo Velasco. I write to you in support of SB1418 SD1 HD1. As the son of migrants from Ilocos Norte and Ilocos Sur, Philippines, I am a proud graduate of Wai'anae High School and the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM) for both of my bachelor's and master's degrees. My family first lived in Kalihi and later settled in Ma'ili of Wai'anae, where I grew up. Wai'anae is a predominantly Native Hawaiian community, followed by a strong Filipino population. After graduation from high school, not many graduates pursued a higher education; many went to work or joined the military. It seemed that access to higher education for young people from my community was not as promoted as in other communities. Out of a graduating class of 400, 11 of us attended UHM. It is truly a privilege for me to attend UHM and I would like to share that opportunity with others. My college journey at UHM was one that was filled with personal empowerment through appreciation for my Filipino heritage. Courses in Ilokano Language, Filipino Language as well as History courses allowed me to learn more about my Filipino heritage, the Philippine languages, as well as struggles and successes. This learning experience gave me a full sense and deeper appreciation for who I am as a Local Filipino. The in-and-out of the classroom experiences with other students of Filipino ancestry as well as staff and faculty, allowed me to connect to the culture in meaningful and purposeful ways. The Filipino community on the UHM campus allowed me to feel belonged, not marginalized; gave me the connections and confidence to get involved in campus-wide student involvement and leadership opportunities. All these experiences combined allowed me to shape my academic, personal and career goals. In addition, as a student, I benefitted from the support and services provided from the UHM Office of Multicultural Student Services, where they assisted students from disadvantaged communities and underrepresented groups. This office fostered a safe and welcoming space for Filipinos students as a gateway to other services on the UHM campus.

As a student, I participated in the Pamantasan Conferences to connect with other students, staff and faculty across the UH System. This gathering formed a pipeline of support for students matriculating from the community colleges to the university. I also had the opportunity as an undergraduate student to coordinate the Pamantasan Conference. This was truly a transformative learning experience. As a higher education professional and faculty member, professional responsibilities took me to UH West

O'ahu, where very little is available to support and understand the concerns facing students of Filipino ancestry. I am in a position to encourage our students to get involved in the Pamantasan Conferences.

It is my hope that UHWO students of Filipino ancestry have access to Philippine-related language and history courses as well as the opportunity to attend Pamantasan conferences to further expand their appreciation for their Filipino heritage, be a part of the growing Filipino community within the UH system and advance forward in the growth, learning and development.

As a higher education professional at the University of Hawai'i-West O'ahu, I am aware of the growing need for courses/programs/experiences to be available as students of Filipino ancestry comprise the second largest student population behind Native Hawaiian. This bill, SB 1418, will give opportunities to the students at UH West O'ahu and other UH campuses to further explore and affirm their Filipino identity, establish meaning and purpose directly contributing to achieving their academic, personal and career goals. I thank the House for introducing SB 1418 and hope that through its passage, students of Filipino ancestry as well as professional staff and faculty members may continue to improve access, retention and persistence for students in higher education. I support the intent of this bill to provide resources to the Pamantasan Council. Thank you for accepting this written testimony.

If you would like to further discuss my support for this bill, I may be contacted at 808-218-0833, or by email, rouel.velasco@gmail.com.

SB-1418-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/27/2019 1:42:12 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2019 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cherie Guillermo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Wednesday, March 27, 2019

Support for SB1418, RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

My name is Cherie Guillermo and I am currently a PhD student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa studying Epidemiology. I am writing in strong support of SB1418, which would appropriate funds for 4 full-time equivalent positions to promote access, diversity, and workforce development, including programs and policies related to Philippine courses and Filipino students.

It was in college in which I saw the need of programs and Philippine courses for students. I was born in the Philippines and migrated to the US when I was in the second grade. During my primary and secondary education, I grew up with classmates from different background. Furthermore, I took other foreign languages to expand my horizon. While that beneficial, I did not realize how much I didn't know about my own culture. It was in college where Philippine language and literature courses opened my eyes to how much I don't even know about my own heritage. I think this is a very important aspect in a person's educational and personal development because it help shape a person's identity. With programs that provide mentorship, research, and guidance to Filipino students, I learned more about different programs (such as Epidemiology), graduate school, and career opportunities. I strongly believe that by providing additional positions, more programs can be created or enhanced so that more Filipino students can be educated regarding opportunities to get a college degree, higher education and professional degrees.

Because of that, I strongly support this bill and thank you so much for your kind consideration.

TESTIMONY IN **STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 1418 SD1 HD1** TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO
THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PAMANTASAN COUNCIL FOR 4 FULL- TIME EQUIVALENT
POSITIONS

To the House Committee on Finance,

My testimony is in strong support of SB 1418 SD1 HD1 that proposes to appropriate funds to the University of Hawaii Pamantasan council for four full-time equivalent positions to promote access, diversity, and workforce development, including programs, and policies related to Philippine courses and Filipino students.

My name is Aprilei Tonga Tagata Ramirez. I am a current resident of Kaneohe, but Kalihi will always be home to me. I am a product of a single Ilokana mother from Ilocos Sur in the Philippines. I represent the dreams of my mother, my community, and my ancestors. My mother spent 34 years of her life doing meaningful work with recovery alcohol and drug abusers. She worked alongside many other Filipino/a(s) who put their dreams aside to afford to raise their families in paradise. I can still recall my mom and Filipino aunties always saying, “Balasang, make sure you graduate and go to college. College will help you get a better job and life.”

I was fortunate to have had a handful of faculty and staff being Filipino through my academic journey from Farrington High School, the UH system community colleges, and more so at UH Mānoa. Although four-year graduation rates for Filipinos has increased from 13.8 percent to 37.7 percent, there is still room for improvement. Passing SB 1418 SD1 HD1 would continue to increase Filipino(a) students, faculty, and staff representation and success. It would also help continue to promote Philippine and Filipino-American courses in the UH system along with increased Filipinos in higher education. Thus, SB 1418 SD1 HD1 would create more opportunities in jobs, careers, and community service for Filipinos, who comprise an estimated 25 percent of Hawai‘i’s current population. Additionally, creating these four full-time positions would improve the use and content of Philippine language and significant Filipino ethnic content. It would help expand Filipino cultures in at the secondary education level (i.e., offering workshops, mentoring, and other professional development for Ilokano and Tagalog language teachers), and supporting Filipino student courses and activities.

My academic journey flourished when I was exposed to the Ilokano language and culture through courses offered at UH Mānoa and my involvement with the Student Excellence,

TESTIMONY IN **STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 1418 SD1 HD1** TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO
THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PAMANTASAN COUNCIL FOR 4 FULL- TIME EQUIVALENT
POSITIONS

Equity, and Diversity (SEED) office. These experiences affirmed that higher education is attainable for Filipino/a (s). By funding these positions, you would be instilling pillars of hope for current and future Filipino/a students like me to meet other Filipinos in higher education that believed and support Filipino/a students, even when we doubt ourselves. Having ethnically and culturally relevant role models and mentors fueled the desire to continue my goals and dreams.

As a current Masters of Public Health (MPH) student, I am very grateful that I benefited from the work of the University of Hawai'i Pamantasan Council in promoting access, diversity, and workforce development. It will mean so much for me and to many of my fellow Filipino/a classmates if this program will be able to continue its fantastic work! Please keep the funding for the staffing of the University of Hawai'i Pamantasan Council.

Respectfully,
Aprilei T.T. Ramirez
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SB-1418-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/27/2019 2:32:50 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2019 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Arcelita Imasa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hi, I'm a Filipino student at John A. Burns School of Medicine. I am hoping to become a physician in Hawaii. As a student, I am very grateful that I benefited from the work of the University of Hawaii Pamantasan Council in promoting access, diversity, and workforce development. It will mean so much for me and to many of my fellow Filipino classmates if this program will be able to continue its amazing work!

Please continue the funding for the staffing of the University of Hawaii Pamantasan Council.

Sincerely,

Arcelita Imasa

SB-1418-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/27/2019 2:44:52 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2019 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Norman Capinpin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Comittee,

As a law student at William S. Richardson School of Law, it is discouraging to see the tiny percentage of Filipino's represented given the dispraportionate amount of Filipino's in our community. First generation minorities could contribute a rich and diverse perspective to the law. I represent the Filipino people who grow up here in Hawaii's school system and have aspirations to join the professional community. HB377 will assist in providing the access and knowledge needed for this to happen in the future. HB377 is an important and necessary investment that I believe in and humbly ask for your support. Thank you!

Respectfully Yours,

Norman P. Capinpin

Filipinos for Affirmative Action

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 1418, SD1, HD1 (HSCR 1506)

House Committee on Finance

March 28, 2019, 3:00 pm

Hawai`i State Legislature

Hawai`i State Capitol, Conference Room 308

To: Chair Sylvia Luke
Vice-Chair Ty Cullen
Members of the House Committee on Finance

From: Agnes Malate, PhD
armalate@yahoo.com

My name is Agnes Malate and I am in full support of SB 1418, SD1, HD1 to fund four full-time equivalent positions for the system-wide Pamantasan Council, including instructional faculty, student personnel, and graduate assistantships. I am a member of the Filipinos for Affirmative Action and have worked 30 years to increase diversity in education from high school to college. As a Faculty Specialist and having recently earned a PhD in Educational Foundations at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM), I am a beneficiary of the transformative power that a college degree has for an individual, family, and community. I can also attest to the direct impact that affirmative action and diversity programs have had on improving the lives of the students who participated in these programs.

The Pamantasan Council was established in 1987 to address the academic success and careers of Filipinos and the quality of education for all students at the University. As a young professional who had just joined the staff at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo, I was excited to be part of the planning committee for the first system-wide Pamantasan conference that included students, staff and faculty the following year. For the first time there was a unified effort to understand and address the needs of Filipinos in education and the workforce.

The Council convenes every year, rotating among the UH campuses, to share our efforts on increasing the student, staff, and faculty representation throughout the system. We also are concerned with the underrepresentation of Filipino teachers and administrators in the department of education, especially in comparison to the disproportionately higher enrollment of the Filipinos in the public school system. Incremental steps have been made in offering Philippine and Filipino-American courses in the curriculum. However, after over 30 years it is critical that funding is provided to implement the recommendations and strategies set forth in previous Pamantasan reports. Activities proposed by the different campuses, require funds and positions to ensure adequate faculty, student service personnel, lecturers, graduate assistants, and student staff.

According to the UH Institutional and Research Office Fall 2018 enrollment data (<https://www.hawaii.edu/institutionalresearch/home.action>), Filipino students enrolled in the UH Community Colleges is 17.8% but are only 9.8% at UHM (11.7% of all undergraduates and 5% of all graduates). These figures continue to be lower than Filipino students' public school enrollment (23%). Examining selected majors, 10.0 % of Filipinos are in education, 2% in law, and 6% in medicine. The only major that Filipinos have consistently been well represented is nursing (22.4%). It is the most popular major that Filipinos are encouraged to pursue. In large part due to the high percentage of Filipino nurses in the workforce and access to them via a network of family and friends, a career in nursing has been a proven career path for Filipinos. For many Filipinos who are first-generation college students they lack role models, support systems, and university services to help them successfully navigate the higher education setting. However, they possess the ingredients to excel in education, contribute as professionals in Hawai'i's workforce, and be outstanding leaders. The activities recommended by the Pamantasan Council will strengthen pathways to college and other careers for Filipinos, and foster knowledge and understanding in all students on Filipino culture, history, and contributions.

As the second largest ethnic group in Hawai'i, it is critical that attention be given to the challenges faced by this population and funding be provided to support the efforts of the University of Hawai'i. I am grateful to the Committee for strengthening the University of Hawai'i's and the Pamantasan Council's ability to respond to the growing needs of the second largest ethnic group in the State and urge you to pass SB 1418.

Although I am an employee of UHM, this testimony reflects my personal position and is not the official position of the University of Hawai'i.